

PROVIDER BULLETIN

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Nursing Home Bulletin

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Section Q

Nursing facilities that receive CMS funding are required to administer the Minimum Data Set (MDS) Questionnaire to residents. The MDS is part of the federally mandated process for the clinical assessment of all residents in Medicare or Medicaid certified nursing homes, regardless of payer source. Section Q is the component of the MDS that involves the residents desire to learn about options of returning to the community.

By law, nursing facilities are required to refer any “yes” responses to Section Q 0500 to the local contact agency (LCA). Missouri has contracted with Centers for Independent Living and Area Agencies on Aging to serve as the LCAs. Part of their responsibilities will be to provide Options Counseling to residents that are referred.

Nursing facilities are required to refer Section Q 0500 “yes” responses using an online web application. The link to the application and instruction for its use is included in MO HealthNet Provider Bulletin, Volume 36, Number 27: http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/providers/pdf/bulletin36-27_2014may01.pdf

If any nursing facility staff have questions about making the Section Q referral, they can call 573-522-1591 for technical assistance.

Q+ Index Algorithm

The Q+ Index is an algorithm that can be used to enhance a state’s outreach efforts by identifying current nursing facility residents closely resembling individuals who have successfully transitioned in the past.

The Institute of Gerontology at the University of Michigan examined characteristics of long stay residents discharged from nursing facilities by transition programs in three states to “flag” similar individuals currently residing in nursing facilities who might be good candidates for outreach. The participants’ MDS assessments just prior to discharge were located and a control sample of non-transitioned residents was created. The two groups were compared using statistical analysis. The “Q+ Index” was highly effective in identifying persons similar to those states successful transitions.

Missouri will be adding the Q+ Index algorithm as another way to reach potential Medicaid individuals who may be a good candidate to return to the community.

Once an individual is identified using the algorithm a selected LCA will contact the resident and ask them if they are interested in speaking with someone about their options in returning to the community. If they indicate they are interested, an Options Counseling referral will be made.

This bulletin is to inform you that LCAs may be contacting the nursing facilities to speak with these individuals.

Provider Bulletins are available on the MO HealthNet Division (MHD) (Formerly the Division of Medical Services) Web site at <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/providers/pages/bulletins.htm>. Bulletins will remain on the Provider Bulletins page only until incorporated into the [provider manuals](#) as appropriate, then moved to the Archived Bulletin page.

MO HealthNet News: Providers and other interested parties are urged to go to the MHD Web site at <http://dss.missouri.gov/mhd/global/pages/mednewssubscribe.htm> to subscribe to the electronic mailing list to receive automatic notifications of provider bulletins, provider manual updates, and other official MO HealthNet communications via E-mail.

MO HealthNet Managed Care: The information contained in this bulletin applies to coverage for:

- MO HealthNet Fee-for-Service
- Services not included in MO HealthNet Managed Care

Questions regarding MO HealthNet Managed Care benefits should be directed to the patient’s MO HealthNet Managed Care health plan. Before delivering a service, please check the patient’s eligibility status by swiping the MO HealthNet card or by calling the Provider Communications Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System at 573-751-2896 and using Option One for the red or white card.

Provider Communications Hotline
573-751-2896